



The Link

A Newsletter of the Parent Information Center of Delaware, Inc.

Strategies for Working with Students with Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD)

By: Wendy Woolsey-Terrazas and Janice A. Chavez

Many teachers and parents are “pulling their hair out” wondering if they will survive another day with a student with oppositional defiant disorder (ODD). These students can be confrontational, disruptive, vindictive, and irritate the nerves of teachers who already encounter numerous challenges in the classroom. Unfortunately, teachers will face an increasing number of students with ODD and conduct disorders in our schools. Following are suggestions to assist teachers and parents in dealing with students who demonstrate oppositional defiant behaviors.

The most important point to remember is that the basic drive of a student with ODD is to resist control and manipulation from any adult. The more controlling an adult appears to be, the more oppositional the student becomes. Therefore, developing a behavior plan that considers these points will de-escalate the problem behaviors. Another point to remember is that these students need structure: rules, laws, rewards, punishment, love, guidance, and a sense of safety. A structured environment may be visualized as a corral that encircles the student, reminding him or her on an ongoing basis of acceptable behavior limits. The boundaries can be

extended in time, but the gate should not be opened to total freedom without supervision until the student is ready.

In Creative Strategies for Working with ODD Children and Adolescents, Frank Paget, and Bowm suggest several “Houdini techniques” to escape from situations teachers may encounter with students with ODD. Some teacher behaviors that may add to power struggles in the classroom are:

- Threatening the student
- Responding emotionally (i.e. getting angry or sarcastic)
- Confronting the student near their peers.
- Responding quickly
- Remaining in the interaction too long
- Bribes
- Trying to “convince”
- “Putting down” the student

Diminish Power Struggles

Other strategies that may diminish power struggles include:

- Provide the student with simple directives and choices.
- State pre-determined consequences clearly before reacting.
- Give brief and direct instructions in a calm tone.
- Discuss the problem privately with the student.
- Walk away before the situation

gets too “hot.”

The Power Struggle Reduction Plan

The authors also propose a *Power Struggle Reduction Plan* to prevent confrontations with students with ODD. These strategies include:

- Talk and work with another

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Thinking Out LOUD! LOUD! LOUD!

It's the season to...

This past winter has been unseasonably warm, and it has been hard to determine if and when Spring actually began. I noticed that even our migratory birds were confused this year. Some never left our region, while some returned way ahead of schedule.

Regardless of what the barometer indicates in Delaware, there is one sure way to determine the official start of Spring: DelDot (Delaware Department of Transportation)!

You know that winter is over when the traffic in our State comes to a crawl because of roadwork. It is a ritual that takes place every year whether needed or not. Spring means that roads have to be repaved and that Delawareans, as well as interstate travelers, get to experience snarling traffic and lengthy delays.

A good example of the annual Del Dot ritual is the road leading to our PIC office. It was a perfectly fine and relatively smooth road until about a week ago when Del Dot tore it open to repave it. Why? Because it's Spring, that's why!

Apparently, our State is not in the dire financial situation it claims to be in if the need for road repair is determined by the calendar rather than the number of potholes.

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1046 S. DuPont Highway * Dover, DE 19901

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(Federal funds were not used to compile the editorial and legislative pages.)

Apparently, our State is not in the dire financial situation it claims to be in if the need for road repair is determined by the calendar rather than the number of potholes. And since our State government appears to be using the seasonal approach to improving the lives of its constituents, we need not worry about young adults with developmental disabilities not receiving services due to lack of funds. Come Summer, the road to their opportunities should be fully paved.

(Please refer to p. 17 for more information about funding cuts to the budget of the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services.)

Happy Summer!



ODD *(Continued from page 1)*

teacher. Agree to take over for each other.

- Pre-determine your consequences and then follow through.
- Decide which rules are negotiable and which are non-negotiable.
- When away from an incident, list all the things that hooked you into the power struggle.
- “Walk-by” reinforcements should be brief, even non-verbal, and minimal attention should be drawn.
- Whisper praises without bringing attention to the student.
- Leave a positive note for the student to discover.

It is critical that the team approach be used in developing an intervention plan to be implemented in the school, home, and community. The team should be composed of not only teachers and other school professionals, but also psychologists, psychiatrists, and other medical professionals who work together to insure the success of the student in a variety of settings. Listed below are strategies that have worked for us as parents, teachers, and team members. These strategies, when implemented in a consistent manner, have proven effective in teaching and parenting roles.

- Don't threaten unless you are willing to carry out the threats. Threatening students with ODD allows them to test your ability to follow through.
- Clearly define the behaviors you expect. Students with ODD search for the “gray area” to justify their actions.
- Clearly define the consequences of compliant and non-compliant behavior. This provides a direct relationship between the desired or undesired behavior and the respective consequence and prevents “fueling” an argument.
- Always be firm and consistent. Students with ODD are constantly looking for an “open gate” and an opportunity to challenge your directives of justify their position.
- During confrontations, do not allow your emotions to rule. With students with ODD, your anger demonstrates that they are in control. Behave like Clint Eastwood in Dirty Harry-stay cool,

calm, and collected under the most challenging situation.

Although students with ODD can challenge teachers and parents, they can be our leaders of tomorrow. If directed in a positive manner, they are able to take control of a situation and make things happen. By building on the students' strengths and allowing them to achieve success, students with ODD feel good about their capabilities and become productive members of society.

(CEC Today February / March 2002)

The book [Your Defiant Child: Eight Steps to Better Behavior](#) by Russell A. Barkley and Christine M. Benton is a great resource when working with children with ODD (Guilford Publications 1-800-365-7006)



Take time to laugh, it's the music of the soul.

Family Resource Center, Sparrow Run, Bear



Thanks to grants from JP Morgan Chase Bank (Stanton site) and the federal government, the Family Resource Center serving the Sparrow Run neighborhood plans to add a new play area and crime victims services.

Child, Inc., a nonprofit, statewide organization opened the Center five years ago. The Center serves over 100 residents weekly, holding more than two dozen programs including GED and literacy courses, Narcotics Anonymous and discount food clubs.

Child, Inc. is still searching for other money sources to maintain current programs and develop new and much needed programs.

*For more information, contact the
Family Resource Center
at 148 Flamingo Drive, Newark 19702
or
call 832-5451.*

STUDENT CONNECTIONS...
the sky is not the limit!

“My teachers could help me to learn better if they gave me more homework and challenged me” stated a 10th grade girl with a slow smile breaking across her face. *“Something significant that happened in my life is that my two grandparents and another relative died in the same year”* responded a young man in a hesitant voice. *“If I could change one thing about myself it would be my behavior in school”* revealed a shy, but proud teenage girl. *“I wouldn’t want to serve in the military because I might die”* declared a reserved young blonde headed boy.

These are just some of the insightful and enlightening statements offered by students who participated in *Student Connections* this past year. Students practiced talking about themselves and sharing information with others in an effort to explore and develop their own advocacy skills.

Student Connections, an eight-week interactive advocacy program for students (AND the teachers who support them) was piloted this year by the Parent Information Center of Delaware with students from Richard Allen School (Indian River) and the PACE program (Red Clay).

Students experienced the power of speaking up for themselves and learned the importance of asking for help from their parents, teachers and friends through various communication exercises. They eagerly participated in *Student Connections* activi-

ties such as “Jeopardy – the game of choices” and invited local employers to visit their school to answer questions they prepared. Students also demonstrated their acting abilities by role-playing characters in various scenarios involving employees, customers and supervisors.

A total of 16 students graduated from the *Student Connections* pilot program this year! Students celebrated their success with a last day pizza party and were recognized for their valuable contributions with certificates, memory photo albums and surprise gifts.

Students from Richard Allen School and the PACE program will again have the opportunity to participate in the *Student Connections* program in 2002-3 where it will be conducted as a model program. Returning students will increase their level of participation and serve as mentors for first time participants. Adult volunteers will be recruited and trained to implement the activities of *Student Connections* in other schools. Parent Information Center of Delaware is once more looking forward to working with students and teachers from these schools!

Note: Student Connections is supported through a subgrant from the DE STW Initiative and supplemented by a grant from the Robin Foundation.

“Climb high, climb far;
your goal the sky,



Summer Camp is an awesome yet daunting experience for most children. Parents, of course, are often equally anxious the first time their child leaves home for an extended period of time. But in most cases, campers have a wonderful and enriching experience while parents enjoy a bit of a break.

What I learned at Summer Camp

(by various "camp experts" sharing impressions of their summer camp experiences)

I learned to work on improving my relations with my peers to avoid social problems.

I can be really responsible if I need to be.

That I can do anything that I commit myself to.

I learned that I could lead.

That I have good qualities.

That I can do it!

I learned that I could succeed in almost anything if I try with all of my might.

I'm a better leader than I thought.

I gained respect for my strengths and stamina.

I learned that being you isn't a bad thing after all, because if they don't like you for who you are then they aren't your friends.

I like to help others learn to do things that I have fun doing.

I learned that I could be more organized than I really am.

I learned that I could make friends easily; I just need to get to know the kids.

I like adventure activities and camping.

I am capable of trying new experiences and succeeding in facing my fears. I had fun at camp cause I made a lot of new friends.



I learned I could do much more than I ever thought I could.

That I can help kids and I'm good at it.

I can walk 11 miles in 3 days, climb rocks as tall as a 2-story building, and go on a raft in white water for 7 miles.

I learned that the things I didn't want to do were ok after I did them. I learned you were a little braver than you thought you were.

When you brush llamas you can take hair off.

I learned self-confidence.

I learned that I'm not afraid to try new things .

I learned to set goals instead of limits.

That I am a good leader.

That I can do anything if I put my mind to it.

I learned that I am a fun person when I am happy.

I learned that the harder I push myself the farther I go. And that I have more fun when I don't worry so much and just let things fly.

That if you try and fail...try again...you're bound to succeed!!!

If I make up my mind that I can do something, usually I can!

(Source: *Attention Magazine* January/February 2000 published by CHADD)

Summer Camps

Check out the following resources for more information about summer camp programs:

News Journal Summer Camp Guide

(www.delawareonline.com)

MetroKids Camp Directory

www.metrokids.com

Also, local community centers, churches and schools are a wealth of information and offer various programs and activities throughout the summer.

FAMILY PAGE

What it's like to have a sibling with special needs By Jason Cowin (age 14)



Picture this, you wake up, get dressed, and then walk down the hall to go downstairs. As you walk by your sister's room you hear screaming and the now familiar phrase "I no go to school!" You turn to look in and see your mother trying to get your sister up and dressed, to no avail. Twelve hours later your irritable sister starts a screaming match with your parents. Sound bad? Well this is what a sibling of a child with a disability must deal with everyday. They must learn to live with the mood swings of the sibling as well as the stressed out parents, they must learn to protect their sibling from harassment from other children and they must learn to deal with the anger and depression that accompanies living with their sibling. Siblings of children with disabilities must grow up faster and learn to cope better than the average child. Or so they often think. This all causes immense pressure on the child and makes them almost constantly stressed. It is harder for the child than for the parents because they can do absolutely nothing to help their sibling and all they can do is watch conflicts arise. They are often caught right in the middle of the miniature wars that occur between the sibling and parents. If these children survive the emotional distress of their young lives they will most likely make excellent leaders and counselors for other families.

Parent's Note: Jason's sister has a communication disorder, sensory integration dysfunction, and learning disabilities. When she is 'overloaded' she has 'meltdowns'. Five years ago she was diagnosed with Type I insulin-dependent diabetes, a life-threatening and life-changing disease. She also began having seizures 4 years ago. Jason has stood helplessly with us, his parents and watched his sister struggle through seizures. He has spent hours, sometimes until 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning while he watches his sister struggle for life in critical situations. He has had a hard lesson on how fragile life is and as a parent, I can only hope that he will turn a stressful situation into a positive one. The siblings of children with special needs are our unsung heroes. How can we best support them? (Cathy Cowin is a Parent Consultant in PIC's Newark office.)

The Delaware Child Development Birth to Three Program is developing a SibShops series to be implemented statewide in the Fall of 2002.

If you are interested in the development of this program call Michael Partie 302 5774646 or email mpartie@state.de.us



Sibshops, workshops for Siblings of Children with Special Needs, is a fun and interactive program that brings together 8-13 year olds to express their good-and maybe not so good-feelings about having brothers and sisters with disabilities. And because Sibshops provide support and information in a recreational atmosphere, siblings have fun while they learn.

This program was developed by Donald Meyer, M.Ed, Director, Sibling Support Project Children's Hospital and Medical Center, Seattle, WA
www.chmc.org.departmt/sibsupp

RESOURCES

The following resources are new to the PIC Lending Library!

Addressing Student Problem Behavior: Parts 1 & 2, Gable, Robert & Quinn, Mary Magee, 1999 Two-part video series addresses IEP team approaches and how to conduct functional behavioral assessments.

Attention-Deficit Disorders and Comorbidities in Children, Adolescents, and Adults, Brown, Thomas, 2000 Addresses the complexities of attention disorders. *Donated by the Greater Newark Chapter of CHADD!*

The Autistic Spectrum, A Parent's Guide to Understanding and Helping Your Child, Wing, Lorna, 2001 Assists families with understanding their child's specific condition. *Donated by the Autism Society of Delaware!*

Dreaming of a P.H.A.T. Century, A Five Year Planner & Empowerment Guide, Kuykendall, Crystal, 2000 Calendar guide to assist in dream and goal fulfillment.

Education Rights of Children with Disabilities, Ordover, Eileen, 2001A primer for advocates. Basic legal reference designed to assist parents, students and their advocates in securing rights to quality special education services.

From Rage to Hope: Strategies for Reclaiming Black & Hispanic Students, Kuykendall, Crystal, 1991 This book provides insight, information and teaching techniques to motivate and inspire all students.

Homework Success for Children with ADHD, Power, Thomas & Karustis, James, 2001 Presents an innovative program that is ideal for implementation when homework has become a frustrating battle that nobody wins.

How to Deal with Parents Who Are Angry, Troubled, Afraid, or Just Plain Crazy, McEwen, Elaine, 1998 Book for professionals, teaches skills for effective problem solving and diffusing difficult situations.

Life of a BiPolar Child, Carlson, Trudy, 2000 Provides information to assist in recognizing and understanding individuals with bipolar disorder.

No Such Thing as a Bad Kid, Appelstein, Charles, 2000 This book is packed with information for anyone who lives or works with youngsters at risk.

Problem Solver Guide for Students with ADHD: Ready-to-Use Interventions for Elementary and Secondary Students, Parker, Harvey 2000 A parent's and teacher's guide -

quick reference guide for busy teachers and parents who are looking for proven classroom strategies and parenting tips for children of all ages with AD/HD.

Teaching Toward Solutions: Step-by-Step Strategies for Handling Academic, Behavior & Family Issues in the Classroom, Metcalf, Linda, 1999 This practical resource gives teachers at all levels positive strategies for dealing effectively with all kinds of individual and group behavior problems for a more productive classroom environment.

Tough Kid Book, The: Practical Classroom Management Strategies, Rhode, Ginger & Jenson, William & Reavis, H. Kenton, 1992 This book offers practical solutions to address tough behaviors. Make your classroom a more pleasant environment for you and your students.

Tough Kid, The: Social Skills Book, Sheridan, Susan, 1995 This book provides effective techniques for conducting social skills sessions, maintaining interactions and problem solving.

Understanding Your Special Needs Grandchild, Jones, Clare B., 2001 A grandparent's guide - this book will help you realize and accept the vitally important role you play in your grandchild's life.

Check out these resources!

Visual Recipes, A cookbook for non-readers This unique book was written for people with autism and other developmental disabilities. It contains 35 highly broken down, step-by-step visual recipes that quickly lead to independence in the kitchen. Interested? Call "Different Roads to Learning Books" 1-800-853-1057.

Theresa Wells who has led many students in the Delaware Autism program to employment and greater independence, has published a **series of training manuals**. They are entitled: Teaching Critical Skills In the Kitchen; Teaching Critical Skills During Recreation and Leisure Activities; Teaching Critical Skills Trough Academics That Work. For more information, Email wellstj@attglobal.net

"Hearts and Minds" (a video documentary) follows the lives of four teens diagnosed with mental illnesses. Idaho Public Television and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare captured a prestigious international Peabody Award for this video, described as "A comprehensive educational effort that presents a sympathetic and straightforward examination of mental illness that dispels myths and offers hope". Go to: <<http://www.namiidaho.org/order/videos.htm>> or call 1-800-543-6868.

Disability Related Groups for Support, Information & Advocacy

Adoptive Families with Information and Support (AFIS) Provides support to families during all phases of the adoption process including pre-adoptive information. Call for meeting dates/times.

Statewide—Mary Jo Wolfe (302) 239-6232 AFIS@delanet.com

Alliance for the Mentally Ill in Delaware (AMID) Offers advocacy, support and housing information for individuals with mental illness and their families. Meetings for support groups are held in all three counties. Call for meeting dates/times.

Statewide—Allan Williams, Dir. (302) 427-0787, Oya Alatur (888) 427-2643

Appoquinimink Special Education Support Group Parent mutual support group. Call for information.

New Castle County—Yvonne Coleman (302) 378-4574, yfcol@aol.com
Ellie Laws (302) 653-6375, elaws@aol.com

Arc of Delaware (Association for the Rights of Citizens with Mental Retardation in DE)

New Castle County—Self-Advocacy Group - DE People First. One meeting each month—date/time varies, please call for information. Employment, Housing, Friend-to-Friend. (302) 996-9400

Kent County—Mary Horn, Ofc. Mgr. (302) 736-6140

Sussex County—Need not be a member to receive services. Carol Reid Hall, Outreach Coordinator (302) 856-6019

Architectural Accessibility Board Reviews all construction plans and documents for state facilities, facilities that receive state funds, and state leased facilities in regard to accessibility issues.

Statewide—Dan Muterspaw (302) 739-5644

Autism Society of Delaware Support and information for parents of children with Autism/PDD. Meetings held the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 7:00 p.m. usually at Special Olympics Office (meet 4 times per year in Dover). Speakers, conference, public awareness efforts.

Statewide—Artie Kempner (302) 777-7273 delautism@aol.com

Brain Injury Association of Delaware

www.biausa.org/Delaware/bia.htm

New Castle County—Meets 3rd Thursday of the month (Jan-Nov) 7:00 p.m. at Christiana Care Health System Room 110. Margie/John Goodier (302) 378-3035, (800) 411-0505,

Kent County—Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month (Jan - Nov) 7:00 p.m. at Kent General Hospital Outpatient Therapy Facility. 560 S. Governors Ave., Dover. Rusty/Marilyn Sheridan (302) 653-9433

Sussex County—Meets the 4th Tuesday of the month (Jan-Nov) at Wesley United Methodist Church, 102 E. Laurel and Race Street, Georgetown, 7:00 p.m. Eve Tolley, Facilitator (800) 411-0505, (302) 537-5770,

CHILD, Inc. Statewide parent education, home visiting, and counseling. Promotes parental involvement in education. Specialized services for families experiencing divorce/separation or domestic violence.

Statewide—**WARMLINE (800) 874-2070**—confidential telephone support service for parents of children birth-18. Provides referrals to community services.

New Castle County—Lori Sitler, Dir. (302) 762-8989 lsitler@childinc.com

Kent County—(302) 674-8384

Sussex County—Kim Rodriguez (302) 424-0624, krodriquez@childinc.com

Children & Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders (CHADD) Greater Newark Chapter

Adult and parent Support Group meets 3rd Tuesday of the month 7:00 p.m. United Church of Christ (UCC), Main Street, Newark, DE (old police station). Meetings feature a speaker presentation and or group discussion. Presentation on ADHD to interested groups.

New Castle County—Ruth Wolfe (302) 737-5063 newarkchad@aol.com, www.chadd.org

Children & Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders (CHADD) Brandywine Valley Chapter

Meets 2nd Thursday of each month (except August & December) at DuPont Hosp. for Children, Rockland Rd., Wilmington. Newcomers at 6:45 with both the parent & adult support groups mtg. at 7:30 p.m.

New Castle County—Cindy Joye (302) 376-0900
brandyw_chadd@yahoo.com

Children & Families First Statewide private social service agency dedicated to improving the quality of individual, family, and community life through prevention, treatment, education and training services such as: Parenting Plus, Community Education, Special Needs Adoption, Parent & Child ADHD Group, Grandparenting Support Groups.

New Castle County—(302) 658-5177

Kent County—(302) 674-8384

Sussex County—(302) 856-2388

Client Assistance Program (CAP) Assists persons who are seeking or receiving rehabilitation services with questions and/or problems.

Statewide—Teresa Gallagher, Dir. (302) 698-9336, Melissa Shahan (800) 640-9336

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), Delaware Federation

Advocacy and support to parents and professionals in the education of exceptional persons.

Statewide—Annette Maymar 302-684-8516

Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI) Statewide, information, referral, training & technical assistance, loan program. DATI fosters increased access to assistive technology devices and service for all Delawareans with disabilities. Provides information about products and services, advocates for more consumer-responsive laws and policies, and helps individuals locate sources of funding for assistive technology. DATI maintains 3 Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ARTC).

Statewide—Beth Mineo Mollica, (302) 651-6790, (302) 651-6794 TDD, (800)870-DATI, www.asel.udel.edu, dati@asel.udel.edu

Delaware Assistive Technology Resource Center Provides hands on access to the latest assistive technology and information resources.

Equipment is available for short-term loan.

New Castle County—Maureen Schweitzer (302) 328-2872, (302) 328-2905

Kent County—Hours of operation: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Alma Cordero (302) 739-6885, (302) 739-6886 TDD

Sussex County—Hours -Monday to Friday 8:30 -4:30 Sandy Walls (302) 856-7946, (302) 856-6714 TDD, swalls@gt.esdel.org

Delaware Chapter of the American Society for Deaf Children

Affiliate of national organization. Goal is to distribute information, provide educational & emotional support.

New Castle County—Joanne Koston (302) 731-4879 Voice & TTY

Delaware Learning Resource System Educational materials for borrowing. Materials include all subjects and levels birth through adult—includes books, games, toys, videos, manipulatives, cassettes, software, etc.

New Castle County—Call for hours (302) 831-8148

Kent County—Hours Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m., Fri. 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Summer hours differ -please call first. Beverly Bresnahan (302) 672-1958, (302) 672-1959

Sussex County—Debra Lloyd (302) 855-1649, dlloyd@outland.dtcc.edu

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Disabilities Law Program Provides free legal assistance to individuals with disabilities in civil areas of law.

New Castle County—Brian Hartman (302) 575-0660, (800) 292-7980

Kent County—Christopher White (302) 674-8503, (800) 464-4357

Sussex County—Patricia Shipe (302) 856-0038

Delaware Association for the Blind Provides services that improve the quality of life for individuals who are blind/visually impaired.

Statewide—(302) 655-2111

Delaware Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (DELARF)

Information and advocacy for adult service providers.

Statewide—Barbara McBride (302) 378-7460

Delaware Special Olympics Sports training for eligible participants in athletic pursuits; organized competitions.

Statewide—Ann Grunert (302) 831-4653

Delawareans with Special Needs, Medicaid Managed Care

Panel A parent run group which meets monthly to address health issues and services for our children.

Statewide—Gail Launay (302) 226-5232

Developmental Disabilities Council To assure that individuals with developmental disabilities receive services, supports, and other assistance and opportunities that promote independence, productivity and inclusion in the community. Meetings open to the public—call for times.

Statewide—Pat Maichle (302) 739-3333 TDD

Down Syndrome Association of Delaware, Inc. Support & information for families of a person with Down Syndrome. Call for information on meeting locations, dates and times.

Statewide—Marni Hansel, Outreach Director (302) 996-9400

Early Intervention Program (DMR) Offers developmental testing and care management. Is a member of the Child Development Watch Team.

Statewide—Nancy Colley, Director (302) 995-8576, ncolley@state.de.us

Easter Seal Society of Del-Mar Medical rehabilitation, independent living services, camping & recreation opportunities, vocational and educational services, other.

New Castle County—Sandra Tuttle, President (302) 324-4444

Kent County—Gary Cassidy, Director (302) 678-3353, (302) 734-2888

Sussex County—Cathy Anderson, Director (302) 856-7364

Educational Surrogate Parent Program Recruits, trains, and supports volunteers who represent children in state custody who receive special education services.

Statewide—Faith Moore (302) 577-3545, fmoore@state.de.us

Epilepsy Foundation of Delaware Educates and supports individuals with epilepsy and their families. Support groups are available. EFD increases awareness of epilepsy in the general community and facilitates prevention and management of epilepsy. Also provide educational programs for schools, workplaces and community groups to increase awareness of epilepsy.

New Castle County—Barbara Blair, RN (302) 324-4455, (800) 324-4514

Kent County—Support group meetings 2nd Monday of every month.

Donna Goldsborough, RN, MSN (302) 674-7135

dgoldsborough@kgh.bayhealth.org

Sussex County—Information and referral only Carol Hudson (302) 674-9857

Exceptional Family Member Program, Family Support Center

Assists military members who have family members requiring exceptional medical or special educational services. A mandatory enrollment/identification program for active duty personnel who have family members

with exceptional medical, psychological, developmental, or educational needs.

The program assists in assigning an active duty member to an area where his/her exceptional family member's special needs can be met. Office location Bldg. 263 Chad Street, 2nd Flr.

Statewide—Family Advocacy Office (302) 677-2711

Family Forum For families of children with developmental delays and disabilities—birth to five years.

New Castle County—(302) 577-4556

Kent & Sussex County—Sandy Ward (302) 422-1335, sward@state.de.us

Family Support Network For families of children/youth with mental/behavioral health needs. Meets monthly. picofdel@picofdel.org, www.picofdel.org

New Castle County—Vivian Nichols/PIC (302) 366-0152

Kent County—Earlene Jackson/PIC (302) 674-0184

Sussex County—Kim Beauchamp/PIC (302) 856-9880

FamQuest, Inc.—Personal development, training and coaching firm offering various programs for families and youth. Parents as Leaders (PALS) Program: Parenting program designed to assist parents in raising responsible and purposeful children. Topics include: What every child wants to know; attitude of a champion; your best discovery yet; keys to unlocking your child's potential. www.famquest.com

New Castle County—(302) 498-5191

Food Allergy Support Team of Delaware (FAST) Support group meets 1st Wednesday of each month at A. I. duPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington.

New Castle County—Katie Hamilton (302) 995-7123, Carol Youngdale (302) 235-1119

Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens Provides advocacy for people with disabilities.

Statewide—Wendy Strauss (302) 739-4553

Governors Council on Deaf Equality Provides advocacy & information to members of the deaf community & their families.

Statewide—Kyle Hodges (302) 739-3673

Independent Resources, Inc. Resource center for individuals with disabilities and the communities in which they reside.

New Castle County—(302) 765-019, (302) 765-0194 TDD,

Lhenderson@IndependentResources.org

Kent County—(302) 735-4599

Sussex County—(888) 561-2120

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Offers free educational materials - Leukemia, Hodgkin's Disease, Multiple Myeloma, Lymphoma. Patient Aid Financial Program.

Statewide—Sharon Schuh (302) 661-7300, (800) 220-1617, www.de.leukemia-lymphoma.org, schuh@de.leukemia-lymphoma.org

March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation Offers programs, educational services, research, advocacy for the prevention of birth defects and the improvement of maternal and infant health.

Statewide—Cathy Kanefsky (302) 225-1020, www.modimes.org

Mental Health Association of Delaware Offers support, advocacy, and information.

Statewide—Diane Treacy (302) 765-9740, (800) 287-6423

National Multiple Sclerosis Society Offers information and lending library, assists in service referrals. Statewide organization, call main office for details.

Statewide—Sharon Saunders (302) 655-5610,

sharon.saunders@nmss.ded.org, www.skycon.com/mssdel

Nurses 'N' Kids at Home Provides "Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care" to medically/technologically dependent children; prescription from primary physi-

Continued on page 10

cian required. Statewide services available.
New Castle County—(302) 323-1436
Kent & Sussex County—(302) 424-4467

Parent Advisory Council For families of children/youth with mental/behavioral health needs. Meets at PIC office 3rd Tuesday of each month.
Sussex County—Kim Beauchamp (302) 856-9880. picofdel@picofdel.org, www.picofdel.org

Prader-Willi Syndrome Delaware Association Provides information and support to families, teachers, caregivers, and physicians. Meetings held monthly at varied locations and times. Call for details.
Statewide—Karen Swanson, RNC (302) 378-7385

Reading Assist Institute Support for parents of children with reading difficulties; lending library -Suite 910 in Community Services Building. Volunteer tutoring teams in local schools. Limited referrals for private tutoring. Teacher training center for research-based multi-sensory structured language instruction.
Statewide—Lisa Simon (302) 425-4080 Ruth Baxter, readinfo@projectassist.org

Spina Bifida Association of Delaware To promote the prevention of SB and to enhance the lives of all affected. Provides seasonal newsletter and social activities. Call for support group meeting dates/times.
Statewide—Karen Basara, www.angelfire.com/de/sbaofde, sbaofde@juno.com

State Council for Persons with Disabilities Provides advocacy for and reviews issues related to disability.
Statewide—Bob Osgood, Chairman (302) 739-3613, Kyle Hodges, Staff

Supported Employment Program, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Provides services related to supported employment such as job coaching, training and follow-up services.
Statewide—Mike McGarrity (302) 761-8275

Tourette Syndrome Support Group Meetings held 3rd Wednesday monthly, 7:00 p.m., Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 2313 Concord Pk., (Rt. 202) Room 132, Wilmington.
New Castle County—Jean Deerlove (610) 274-2321, Joy D'Avanzo (302) 999-1916

United Cerebral Palsy of DE Offers support, advocacy, and referrals for children with Cerebral Palsy and other disabilities; operates a summer camp and client assistance program.
New Castle County—Marge Turner (302) 764-2400, Bill McCool
Kent & Sussex Counties—Carma Carpenter (302) 335-5626

University of DE Center for Disabilities Studies University affiliated whose mission is to enable people with disabilities to achieve their personal goals.
Statewide—Theda Ellis (302) 831-6974



10 Things You Can Do To Encourage Learning

1. Play games with your child. Games help children to improve their memory, concentration, problem-solving and social skills. Practicing these skills will help them to use them later in real life situations.
2. Encourage your child to keep a scrapbook or photo album about things that interest him/her such as cars, animals, places, etc. Older siblings can also help younger siblings to collect material for their memory books. 
3. Talk about your job with your child and invite him/her to visit you there.
4. Give your child a ruler and ask him/her to find various items in the house by inches. For example, look for something that is two inches long in the living room.
5. Show your child how to count change. Make it fun and ask him/her to look for state quarters in your change at the grocery store or bank.
6. Hang a map of the world on a wall so your child can locate countries where news events happen.
7. Ask your child to help you cook part of a meal using a recipe book.
8. Visit a museum, library, theater or park! Take the opportunity to match trips to material your child is studying in school.
9. Listen to music and practice tapping out rhythms with your hands, feet, kitchen spoons, etc.
10. Encourage your child to notice sounds and colors around them and to use their imagination to create new sounds and colors.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS from the HILL and YONDER...



The following information was compiled and edited by Marie-Anne Aghazadian. Please contact her at PIC should you have questions.

OSEP has a New Director

Stephanie Smith Lee was appointed by Secretary Rod Page as the Director for the Office of Special Education Programs. Lee will serve as the Chief Advisor to Assistant Secretary Robert Pasternak and administer programs and projects related to education, training and services for individuals with disabilities. Lee served as a government-affairs representative for the national Down's Syndrome Society. From 2000-2002 she served as a member of the Ticket-to-Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act Advisory Panel.

Full Funding for IDEA?

The leaders of the House and Senate reached a formal agreement in December on a ground breaking education bill. But Republican leaders, with the support of the White House, defeated an attempt by Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa to dramatically increase financing for special education. The Bush Administration argues that the issue should be put off until next year when the whole special education program comes up for review. Both sides in this debate have a point. The special education system needs reform and more money. In 1975, when Congress passed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (then EHA) it pledged that it would supply 40% of all special education funding. However, it never managed to push the funding above the current, low level of 16%. Meanwhile, special education costs have soared from about \$1 billion 25 years ago to over \$50 billion this year. (*NY Times 12/12/2001*)

Preparing for the 2002 Reauthorization of the IDEA

In preparation of the reauthorization process, President Bush in October 2001, appointed a commission to examine special education which he says too often fails to ensure children with disabilities achieve despite the large amounts of money spent on special education. The *Commission on Excellence in Special Education* will study six different aspects of special education: accountability systems, research, professional development, finance, assessment and system administration. It plans to hold meetings across the country at which it will seek public comment or testimony in some form. Most of the meetings have already taken place while the remaining meetings are:

Parents as Accountability Measures: Miami FL, April 9-11

Assessment: New York, April 16

Research : Nashville, Tenn. April 18

The final meeting is scheduled for May 20-31 in Washington D.C. At an earlier meeting on March 13 in Des Moines Iowa, Dr. Martha Brooks of the Delaware Department of Education shared her views on the benefits of early parent involvement, which she stated "builds trust and is an investment that pays dividends for years to come." Pat Maichle, chair of the Delaware Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens also provided testimony at that same meeting. For more information visit the commission's web site : <http://www.ed.gov/inits/commissionboards/whspecialeducation/index.html>.

Another resource that will undoubtedly influence Congress' opinion is the 14 chapter volume published by the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation and the Progressive Policy Institute called *Rethinking Special Education for a New Century*. A free copy can be obtained by calling (888) 823-7474 or downloaded from this website: <http://www.edexcellence.net>. If you are concerned about the future or current state of special education, you owe it to yourself to read this publication.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is also up for Reauthorization

Public meetings for comments and input about the Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 have

Continued on page 17

Spring 2002 **11**

Mark Your CALENDAR For These Events

For weekly updates, please visit our website at www.picofdel.org

Delaware Events

4/20/2002, 10:00 a.m., **8th Annual 5K Run/One Mile Walk**, Lewes Physical Therapy (Start and Finish Location) This year's event will benefit the Down Syndrome Association of Delaware (DSAD). Raffles! Fun! Come out and support DSAD and the kids!! 302-644-2530

4/22/2002, 2 day event, **12th Annual Prevention and Early Intervention Forum**, Ruddertowne, Dewey Beach. Sponsored by the Office of Prevention and Early Intervention. 302-892-4500

4/23/2002, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., **PIC/FACT PROJECT ANNUAL CONFERENCE - Just the FACTs: How to Catch Your, Kids Being Good!** Wild Quail Golf and Country Club, Wyoming. Don't miss out on this great conference - topics to include: practical approaches for raising responsible kids, teaching children social skills, and much, much, more! See you there! 302-366-0152, 302-856-9880, 302-674-0184

4/24/2002, 2 days, **Conference to Increase Awareness of Victimization of Persons with Disabilities**, Delaware Technical & Community College, Stanton Campus. Delaware Partners in Justice - Co-sponsored by DE Developmental Disabilities Council and ARC of DE. Keynote Judge David Flinn. 302-651-6796 or 800-870-3284

5/1/2002, 6:00 - 9:00 pm, **The Disability Legislative Agenda**, Dover Downs. An evening to learn about disability issues and the community—entertainment, music and hors d'oeuvres. Sponsored by DDDC, SCPD, GACEC & Freedom Center. Call 302-739-3333.

5/8/2002, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., **Delaware Department of Education Exceptional Children & Early Childhood Group Teleconference Series**, Reading and Much More: The LANGUAGE Curriculum. Dr. George Smith 302-739-4667.

5/10/2002, 8:45 - 4:15 p.m., **Families in Crisis Conference "Overcoming Obstacles"** DelTech Owens Campus, Georgetown. Conference focus - to bring together individuals who are concerned with improving the quality of social service delivery on Delmarva. 302-855-1617

5/19/2002, 7:30 p.m., **Greater Newark Chapter of CHADD - ADHD and Addiction** NewArk United Church of Christ, 300 E. Main Street, Newark. Monthly support group meeting. Speaker is Thomas Olson. For info call 737-5063.

Elsewhere around the Country

4/22/2002, 2:00 p.m., **RRTC Live Webcast - Social Security and The Ticket to Work**. Ken McGill directs the Office of Employ. Support Programs at the Social Security Adm. This office is responsible for policy and programs supporting the employment of people with disabilities who receive Social Security and Supplemental Security Income. Terry Blankenship tblanke@saturn.vcu.edu, www.worksupport.com

4/22/2002, **9th Biennial National Conference - Family Support - THE TIME HAS COME!** Chicago, IL. Conference will highlight new evidence in evaluation, research and best practices as well as new strategies. 312-338-0900 www.familysupportamerica.org

4/29/2002, 5 days, **YAI International Conference on Developmental and Learning Disabilities**, Crowne Plaza Manhattan Hotel, New York. Making a Difference in Developmental Disabilities - more than 300 speakers and 150 seminars and workshops will focus on critical issues such as: advocacy, health care, technology, transition services. Abbe Wittenberg 212-273-6193, www.yai.org

5/5/2002, **23rd National Institute on Legal Issues of Educating Individuals with Disabilities**, Tampa Bay Convention Center, Tampa, FL. Topics include - FERPA, manifestation determinations, challenging behaviors in students with IEPs, Section 504, and much, much, more. 800-727-1227, lrpconf@lrp.com www.lrp.com



LRPConferences.com/INST

5/10/2002, **Issues in Autism - Twenty Years of Progress 2002**, Sheraton Atlantic City Convention Center Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ. Keynote - Dr. Sandra Harris. Topics include: perspectives on early intensive behavioral intervention for young children with autism, designing effective living environments for adults with autism, plus much more. Call 60-883-8100 or www.njcosac.org

5/21/2002, **Teleconference - Application of the ADA to Temporary Employment**. www.gldbtac.org/training/schedule.htm

5/30/2002, Multi-day, **Building on Family Strengths - Research and Services in Support of Children and their Families**, Portland, OR. Annual conference brings together family members, youth, researchers, advocates and providers to focus on family-centered services and enhance the quality of life for families and their children with emotional, behavioral or mental disorders. 503-725-8118 OR elizabr@rri.pdx.edu www.rtc.pdx.edu

6/12/2002, 3-day event, **2002 Annual Independent Living Conference**, Renaissance Hotel, Washington, DC. Npshear@aol.com

6/18/2002, **Bank Street Family Center: A Model of Community & Inclusive Early Childhood Programs**, Bank Street College of Education, NY, NY. Topics include: observing infants and toddlers, understanding and supporting bilingual language development in infants and toddlers, and much more. 212-875-4728

7/5/2002, **National Down Syndrome Society 2002 Conference "A Celebration of Community"**, Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN. 866-902-6338 or www.ndss.org

7/10/2002, 5 Day, **Training Institutes 2002 - Developing Local Systems of Care for Children & Adolescents ...**, Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington DC. Emphasis on family involvement and cultural competence in systems of care. National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health. 202-687-5000, institutes2002@mindspring.com

7/15/2002, 2:00 p.m., **RRTC Live Webcast - The Future Impact of Technology**

on Employment for People with Disabilities. Lex Freiden is Sr. VP at the Institute for Rehabilitation and Research in Houston, TX. TIRR is a comprehensive medical rehabilitation center which provides clinical, educational and research programs pertaining to spinal cord and brain injuries. Teri Blankenship tcblanke@saturn.vcu.edu www.worksupport.com

7/17/2002, **Champions & Challenges: 2002 National Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders**, Indianapolis Marriott Downtown Hotel. Autism Society of America 888-233-2864

7/21/2002, **3rd Annual Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice**, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka, KS. Conference topics include: legal issues, research and prevention, community intervention, information technology. 785-296-4213, www.ksjja.org

7/25/2002, **National Coalition of Education Activists "Reclaiming Our Children's Education: Uniting Families, Schools and Communities"**, Milwaukee Area Technical College, Milwaukee, WI. Topics include: youth and militarism, zero tolerance-resisting the drive for punishment, and much more. Contact ncea@aol.com, www.neceaonline.org

8/23/2002, **National Down Syndrome Congress Annual Convention "Set Your Sights a Mile High"**, Denver, CO. Annual convention will include topics on communication, supports for behavior, the IEP process and much more. Contact www.ndscenter.org or 800-232-NDSC

9/20/2002, **Brain Tumor Society's Fifth National Symposium "Living Beyond a Brain Tumor"**, Boston Quincy Marriott, Quincy, MA. Topics will include information on radiosurgery, cognitive rehab, transition to adulthood, and much more. 800-770-8287 or info@tbts.org

9/23/2002, **RRTC Live Webcast - Self Determination: The Most Natural Support.** Micheal Wehmeyer, Ph.D. is Assoc. Profes, Depart. of Special Ed. and Assoc. Dir, Beach Center on Disability, both at the Univ. of Kansas. Dr. Wehmeyer has focused his research and model development activities on promoting self-determination for children. Teri Blankenship tcblanke@saturn.vcu.edu, www.worksupport.com

10/22/2002, **The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) Training Workshop**, Ramada Inn, Philadelphia International Airport, Philadelphia, PA. Training provides crucial information and hands-

on practice for individuals who work with and/or live with children, adolescents, and adults with limited communication skills (including autism). 302-368-2516 www.pecs.com

10/22/2002, Multi Day, **Picture Exchange Communication (PECS) Training Workshop**, Essington, PA. Initial language training package that is used to teach communication skills rapidly to those with limited functional speech. Erin DiMaio 302-368-2515 www.pecs.com

11/18/2002, **RRTC Live Webcast - Supporting a Person with Difficult Behaviors - Supporting the People Who Care.** David Pitonyak, Ph.D., is interested in positive approaches to difficult behaviors. David has consulted with families and professionals throughout the United States, Canada and England. He has worked with people in a variety of settings, including home. Teri Blankenship tcblanke@saturn.vcu.edu or www.worksupport.com

Family Fun—Education Fair

May 11, 2002 (Saturday)

10:00 am—2:00 pm

Family Event with make-and-take activities in art, science, math, reading and social studies; Musical presentations; Computer technology presentation; Food and Games!

Coinciding with the Fair will be the grand opening of the new elementary school *Olive B. Loss*

Olive B. Loss Elementary School
200 Brennan Boulevard, Bear

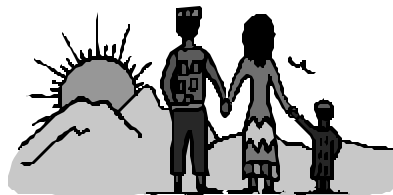
Call Appoquinimink School District for more information **378-5010**.

SAVE THIS DATE!

May 20, 2002

Basic Planning for Children with Disabilities
Presented by R.H. Rockwell Insurance Agency Inc.

How do I get a power of attorney?
How do I file for Guardianship?
What is a Special Needs Trust?



Join other families who have questions and concerns about planning for their children's future.

New Ark Church of Christ
300 E. Main Street
Newark

Sponsored by PIC—Call 366-0152 to register!

Spring 2002 **13**

DID YOU KNOW....?

❄️ A **Down Syndrome clinic** will be held one afternoon every other month at A.I. duPont Hospital for children 3 years and older. Suggestions about topics and speakers are encouraged as this is a new, yet promising idea. Send your comments and suggestions to the Down Syndrome Association of Delaware at LSCleary@foxroach.com or call 239-0777 or 235-6429.

❄️ The *CEC (Council for Exceptional Children) Continuing Education Program* is offering a new online workshop, **Beginning Reading Instruction**, by Anita Archer to help teachers learn practical strategies to teach reading. The workshop provides an easy-to-use method to teach essential reading skills. Because the workshop is available online, you can complete it at a time that is convenient for you. For additional information or to register, contact contedu@cec.sped.org or 888-232-7733, ext 516 or visit their website at www.cec.sped.org/pd/reading.html.

❄️ The *Delaware State Fire Marshall's office* has a program to provide **smoke detectors for people with hearing impairments**. The detectors have a flashing strobe light and a louder-than-usual horn. Check with the State Fire Marshall's office in your county for more details: New Castle County 323-5365; Kent County 739-4394; Sussex County 856-5398.

❄️ Easter Seals Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore has partnered with *Easter Seals National and the American Library Association (ALA)* to promote inclusion and celebrate accomplishments of people with disabilities. Central to the program is a list of **ALA recommended books for children and adults—all featuring characters with disabilities**. To view the list and to locate libraries hosting local displays and/or events, visit www.easter-seals.org.

❄️ A **newsletter for parents of girls** entitled "**Daughters**" provides parents with practical information. Topics

range from sports to handling divorce situations. The newsletter provides tools for parents to strengthen daughter relationships as well as explore cultural challenges that girls growing up face. Subscription information can be obtained by emailing subscriptions@daughters.com or by writing to Daughters, P.O. Box 3280, Duluth, MN 55803-9965.

❄️ The Mission of DE Parent Education Resource Center (DPERC) is to **provide families and educators with the knowledge and resources** that will help families become an integral part of their children's educational success. Child, Inc. is the host agency for the DPERC project. For more information about DPERC and it's partners visit our website at www.childinc.com/DPERC.htm.

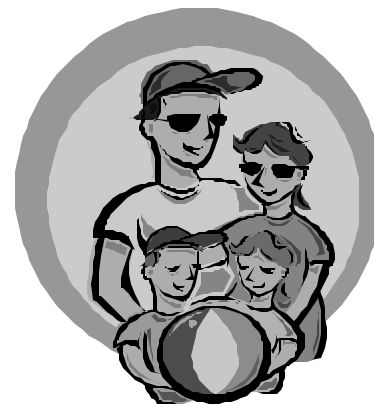
❄️ *PACT "Parenting Angry Children and Teens"* Program is a four part parenting course which will assist parents to more **effectively manage challenging and anger producing situations** with their children and adolescents. For more information or to register call Terri Charles at Child, Inc. 762-8989.

❄️ Last year the *Delaware Parent Education Resource Center* awarded **parental involvement funding** to 16 Delaware schools in an effort to increase programs to support parental involvement in education. This year DPERC will grant up to twenty-five (25) awards to assist schools with their upcoming parental involvement activities/events. The Goal of the Project is to increase the comfort level and knowledge level of parents, students, and school staff in their dealings with one another in an effort to bring about increased parental involvement in education. To receive more information, please email krodriguez@childinc.com

❄️ "*Parent to Parent*" is a **half hour weekly radio program** hosted by Reverend Anthony White. The Sunday 7:00 pm program on WDEL 1150 AM provides listeners an opportunity to call

in and talk about questions and concerns they have about children and school. This unique program is produced by parents who are members of the DE State Parent Advisory Council (DSPAC) and sponsored by the DPERC. (See p. 14 for information about a tv show called "Parents Make it Happen" also sponsored by DPERC.)

❄️ *Michael Jordan's* education funding program's deadline for Jordan Fundamentals Projects Grants isn't until June 15, but with **400 grants of \$2,500 available for teachers with unique ideas**, it's never too early to start getting ready with an application. The Jordan grants are generally for schools with disadvantaged students in grades 6 - 12. Applicants should develop a catchy lesson plan or thematic unit setting high expectations for students. Visit http://www.nikebiz.com/community/jordan_fund.shtml for more information.



❄️ The *Delaware Department of Education* received a **\$322,500 matching grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**. The Gates Foundation has committed \$100 million across the US to help provide every superintendent and principal access to quality professional development, leadership and technology

PI C's new Wilmington office is open!
See p. 15

BULLETIN BOARD

National Leadership Conference for Youth with Disabilities

The 2002 National Youth Leadership Conference will be held on July 26-29 in Washington, DC. Approximately 70 young leaders will be chosen to participate between the ages of 18-24. Conference goals are to help prepare the next generation of disability leaders and to identify ways to improve policies and supports for young people with disabilities.

For application information, email guerrere@ohsu.edu or write NYLN Conference, OHSU Center on Self-Determination, 3608 SE Powell Blvd., Portland, OR 97202

Parents Make It Happen

Don't know which way to go about your children or school issues?

Try turning to the tv show called "Parents Make It Happen" a half hour show hosted by Herb Martin.

Show topics include: School Climate; State and School Testing; School and Student Violence; Families with Absent Fathers; Grand Parents Parenting; Understanding Learning Disabilities/ Special Needs and much more!

New Castle Ch 28 Mondays 8 pm and Fridays at 3:30 pm

Kent Ch 24 Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

Sussex Ch 60 Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

JUST THE FACTS:

How to Catch Your Kids Being Good!

April 23, 2002

Wild Quail Golf & Country Club

8:15 am—2:30 pm

Keynote Address

Betsy Geddes, Ed.D.- Portland, OR

Practical Approaches for Raising Responsible Kids

Nancy Kauffman, COLLAGE Therapy

Developing and Enhancing Social Skills

Call any PIC office to register!

New PIC office opens in Wilmington!



**At Eighth Street Baptist Church
3301 N. Market Street
Wilmington**

**764-3252 Voice
764-1500 Fax**

**Kasonya Lawson
Family School Partner**

Thanks for your support!

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 Louis Bartoshesky
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 Judith Hope
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 Audrey Jungling
 Barney Kantar
 Patricia Kelly
 Margaret Kempner
 Thaddeus Koston
 Stewart Krug
 Alfred/Stephanie Lord
 Rea Dorette Lund
 Paul Lundmark
 Christine Madden
 Patricia Maichle
 Mark Majerus
 Lisa Manly
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 Nancy Meadows
 Donna Mesko
 Dale Meyer
 Betty Mincer
 Meri Jo Montague
 Gregory Morrison
 Doretha Mosley
 Margaret Mullen
 Denise Nix-Thompson
 Mary Ann Nolan
 Domenica Oldham
 Maryanne O'Neill
 Elizabeth O'Neill
 William O'Neill

Michael Partie
 Umesh Pattanayak
 Maryanne Payne
 Patricia Pepe
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 Harris Rabinovich
 Keith Ragan
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 Rodel Foundation
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 Jeffrey Roth
 John/Celeste Ryan
 Susan Rzucidlo
 Felix Sczubelek, Jr.
 Naomi Seinsoth
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 Keshia Sheperd
 Myra Shostak
 William Simpson
 Angela Sipple
 Linda Smith
 Donna Smith
 Marybeth Snyder
 Stephen Spence
 State Employees Charitable Campaign
 Mark Steele
 Rebecca Stewart Arnold
 Mary Susan Stine
 Jeanne Susie
 Karen Swanson
 Gary Taylor
 Ruben Tejeira
 Mary Anna Thomas
 Cheryl Tyrell
 Victor Udo
 Edith Vincent
 Kathy Viscount
 Alan Wedgewood
 Steven Werkheiser
 Michael Wheatley
 Kathleen Wian
 Susan Wild
 Don/Takouhy Wise
 Sandra Wolf
 Elsie Fay Wood
 Patricia Wood
 Genevieve Ziemann Tighe
 Bonnie Zistl



been scheduled. The meeting location closest to Delaware will be held in Washington D.C on June 19 . Individuals wishing to present comments must reserve time on the agenda (call Tammy Nelson at 202-205-9005 for a reservation to speak). In addition to input through public meetings, the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) invites comments in writing which can be faxed to: RSA, United States Department of Education at 202-205-9874. Comments should address specific issues per the Act. A copy of the Act can be downloaded from the RSA website: <http://www.ed.gov/osers>

Senator Hillary Clinton announced plans to introduce legislation to provide respite for caregivers not covered by the National Family Caregivers Program. Clinton will introduce the legislation early this spring as part of a larger bill related to women's health issues. For more information go to: http://www.aucd.org/aucd_legisaffairs.htm#Lifespan

Families must speak up if they want services for their adult children . Young adults with developmental disabilities who will be graduating this June 2002 may well find that there is no money in Governor Minner's budget for vocational and residential services. In addition to not having any funds to program for about 58 school graduates, the Department of Developmental Disabilities Services is also facing cuts to their existing budget. It is imperative that **FAMILIES** of young adults who will be affected by this downturn in services **SPEAK UP**. Calling and writing letters to their local legislators and sharing their concern and disapproval will hopefully encourage legislators to put services for people with developmental disabilities ahead of road repairs or other nonessential programs. Keep in mind that this fall all DE legislators could be up for reelection and you and your families votes can influence policymakers!

Teacher Out of Packet Tax Break Passes

President Bush approved a provision tucked away in the national economic-stimulus bill giving teachers tax credits if they buy classroom supplies with their own money. The provision sponsored by Senator Kyl (R-Arizona) and signed into law would mean that teachers could claim up to \$250 in federal tax exemptions starting this April 15. The deduction applies to all teachers K-12, (not just for those who itemize all deductions on their tax form), instructors, counselors and principals who have worked in a school for at least 900 hours during the school year. The deduction applies to books, school supplies, computer equipment and other supplementary equipment and is effective until January 1, 2004. For more information call Senator Kyl's office at 202-224-4521 or log onto <http://thomas.loc.gov>. bill no HR3090, Sec406 (Aid for Education Report 3/18/2002).

The Autism Society of Delaware presents:

The Journey Toward Independence

Saturday, May 11, 2002 8:30 am—3:30 pm

University of Delaware, John M. Clayton Hall, Newark
Call 777-7273 to register or visit www.wserv.com/delautism

Who Should Attend?

Educators, paraprofessionals, school district administrators, adult service providers, physicians, psychologists, speech, occupational and physical therapists, child-care/respite providers, parents and family members

Why Should You Attend?

Here is your opportunity to learn cutting-edge methods to improve teaching techniques, adult service plans and parenting skills. And much more!

Who Are The Presenters?

*Rhonda Walter, MD—Developmental Pediatrician, Division of Developmental Medicine at duPont Hospital for Children
Dr. Walter's particular interests are in identification of early childhood developmental disabilities.*

Patricia D. Juhrs—Directs the nationally recognized organization CSAAC (Community Services for Autistic Adults and Children) which serves individuals with autism.

Jim Ball, Ph.D.—Vice president of Autism Services for Youth Consultation Services, a private not-for-profit agency in Newark, NJ.

Elayne Nickolaou—Consultant who trains Special Education teachers to effectively use Direct Instruction and Precision Teaching to improve students' academic skills in reading and math.

George Vince—School Psychologist, Bensenville, IL and Consultant for AimStar Precision Learning Center/Services.

Teresa Wells and Marie-Anne Aghazadian—Local Autism "experts"

PIC PAGE - All about Delaware's Parent Training and Information Center

When the parents of children or youth with disabilities need assistance and understanding, parent centers are a "lifeline." Across the United States, from Marin to Manchester or Sarasota to Seattle, mothers, fathers and other caretakers turn to Parent Centers for information and assurance and for help and hope as they meet the challenges of rearing a child with special needs.

The **Parent Information Center of Delaware** is one of those Parent Centers. Parent Centers—Parent Training and Information Centers or PTIs (such as *PIC/DE*) and Community Parent Resource Centers or CPRCs (such as *the DE Parent Education Resource Center*) - serve families of children and young adults from birth to age 22 with all disabilities: physical, mental, learning, emotional and attention deficit disorders.

Parent Centers...

- ♥ Help families obtain appropriate education and services for their children with disabilities
- ♥ Work to improve education results for all children
- ♥ Train and inform parents and professionals
- ♥ Resolve problems between families and schools or other agencies
- ♥ Connect children with disabilities to community resources that address their needs



Based on 2000-2001 reports from Parent Centers:

- * 4.5 million contacts were made to Parent Centers by parents and professionals, through telephone calls, one-on-one consultations, trainings, meetings, letters and web site hits
- * 33% of the individuals served by Parent Centers were from culturally and racially diverse families
- * 218,000 parents attended training and presentations offered by Parent Centers
- * 147,000 professionals serving children with disabilities attended training and presentations sponsored by Parent Centers
- * Circulations of Parent Center newsletters totaled 1.5 million



Parents said the following about their interaction with Parent Centers:

- * 84% said the individual assistance they received from Parent Centers helped them obtain some of the services they felt their child needed
- * 87% said they felt more confident about working with school personnel
- * 87% felt more confident in dealing with schools, due to the information they received at workshops
- * 75% said they are more involved and effective in their child's education after attending a workshop
- * 70% of parents attending workshops believed their child received more appropriate services because they used information from a workshop

Here's what Delaware families are saying about PIC...

- ◆ *"Your support and assistance is always so comforting and priceless! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!"* L. R.
- ◆ *"PIC has and continues to do an excellent job of educating parents. I personally promote your services whenever I can."* J. B.
- ◆ *"The Parent Information Center has become an important source for me in the education of my son. The services provided by the Center are a resource I can count on. Without this resource I don't know where I would have turned."* D. K.
- ◆ *I know that if I need them again, Parent Information Center will be there to help. I hope that anyone else who has questions concerning their children's right to an education will contact them. I am forever grateful for the help."* N.B

JOIN Parent Information Center of Delaware TODAY!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Your membership with the Parent Information Center of Delaware shows that you believe our unique services are needed, are of quality, and truly benefit families of children with disabilities and professionals throughout Delaware.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Employer _____

Email Address _____

Annual Membership Dues—Subscription to “The LINK” included

\$15.00	Individual	<i>I am a:</i>	
\$30.00	Family	Parent	
\$50.00	Contributing	Educator	_____
\$75.00	Agency/Organization	Professional	_____
\$100.00	Sustaining	Consumer	_____
\$300.00	Corporate	Organization	_____
\$500.00	Fairy God Parent	Other (specify)	_____
\$500.00+	Guardian Angel		

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our code number 725 in the Specific Care section of your pledge form.

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All contributions are tax deductible.



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